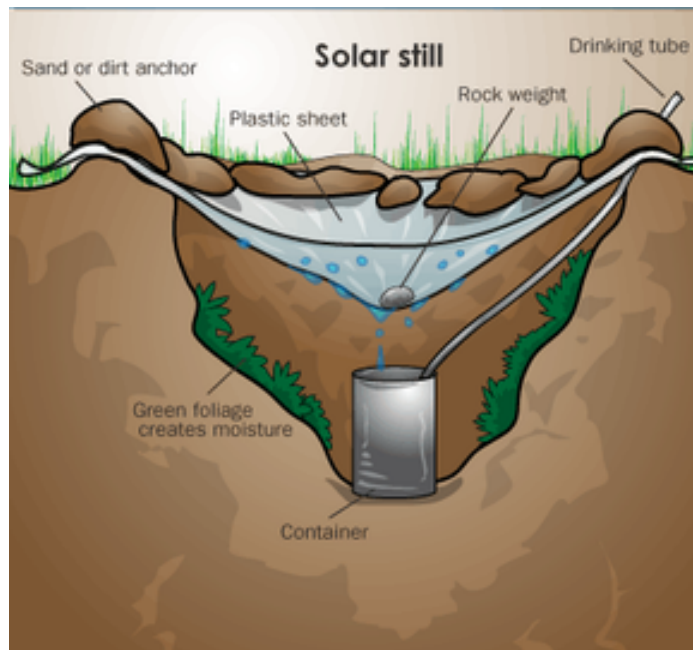


## SOLAR STILLS



One pretty basic way you can collect water is to make a belowground still. To do this, you'll need some plastic sheeting, a digging tool, a container, a drinking tube and a rock.

- Choose a moist area that gets sunlight for most of the day.
- Dig a bowl-shaped hole about three feet across and two feet deep, with an additional sump dug in the center.
- The sump should be flat and big enough to hold your container.
- Place the container into the sump.
- Put the drinking tube in the container and run it up and out of the main hole.
- Place the plastic over the hole and cover the sides with rock and soil to keep it there.
- Put your rock in the center of the sheet and let it hang down about 18 inches, directly over the container to form an inverted cone.
- Add more soil on the edges for stability.

The moisture from the ground reacts with the heat from the sun to produce condensation on the plastic. The still forces the condensation to run down the plastic and into your container. You can also add vegetation inside the hole to increase the amount of moisture -- just make sure the plants aren't poisonous. Use the tube to drink directly from the container. If you don't have one, you can remove the container and reassemble it after. A good still can produce up to one quart of drinking water per day.